

# ***POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND RULES***

<b>Subject:</b> 62.1.12 Police Traffic Radar Operation	<b>Effective Date:</b> June 7, 2011
<b>Reference:</b>	<b>Version:</b> 1
<b>CALEA:</b> 61.1.9	<b>No. Pages:</b> 3

## **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for operation of the department's speed enforcement program.

## **II. POLICY**

A. Police traffic radar will only be used when operating personnel are qualified under the rules of the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training, and equipment is properly certified. While assigned to the field training program, newly certified radar operators will receive "hands-on" training with the specific radar equipment used by our department. [CALEA 61.1.9 e.]

1. All officers are instructed to cease the use of police traffic radar at any time circumstances indicate a loss of confidence in equipment. All requests for assistance in pinpointing or eliminating such indications are to be directed to the radar instructor or specialist forthwith. [CALEA 61.1.9 c.]

### **B. Operator Responsibilities [CALEA 61.1.9 b.]**

1. No traffic summons/arrests will be made with stationary radar unless the following conditions have been satisfied. The operator must:
  - (a) Establish visual contact with the target vehicle;
  - (b) Visually estimate the speed, range (distance) and location of the target vehicle;
  - (c) Observe other traffic and the environment for interference;
  - (d) Listen to the Doppler return audio for pitch and clarity;
  - (e) Obtain a stable radar reading;
  - (f) Manually lock the radar reading;
  - (g) Visually reconfirm identification of the target vehicle; and
  - (h) Apprehend the target vehicle (pacing to obtain additional evidence, if possible).

When any doubt exists as to the identity of a target vehicle, no enforcement action is

to be taken. Good judgment and common sense must be exercised in the operation of police traffic radar.

2. Radar will not be utilized by members of this department when the main strength of the radar beam detects and displays a target on the other side of any traffic control device which requires a reduction of speed.

No radar will be used within 30 days of the initial posting of any traffic control device which requires a reduction of speed on an already established street or highway. (This provision shall not apply to spot speed studies in which no enforcement action is taken.)

- (a) Radar will not be utilized on multiple (4 lanes, or more) lane streets or highways during periods of heavy traffic volume.
  - (b) Radar will not be utilized during periods of inclement weather (rain, snow, ice, sleet, etc.) heavy enough to require the extended use of windshield wipers.
  - (c) Radar will not be operated within 100 feet of a power substation.
  - (d) No radar readings are to be locked in while the operator or any passenger in his vehicle is transmitting over a citizens band (CB) or mobile police radio.
  - (e) It is the operator's responsibility to:
    - (1) log his calibration tests, date, time, and location,
    - (2) familiarize himself with the operator's manual for the radar unit utilized,
    - (3) check the radar equipment at the start of each shift (two tuning forks - numbered, etc. and report any discrepancies to the shift supervisor), and
    - (4) place the radar unit in the "radar holster" at all times when the radar unit is not actually in the operator's hands.
3. Except for radar or vehicle repairs, all radar units and related equipment shall remain in the police vehicle which they have been assigned. Anytime a radar unit is removed from the police unit, such as for radar or vehicle repairs, the fact must be documented by a supervisor on the information board in the briefing room.

#### C. Operational Considerations

All police traffic radar operated by this department must be: [CALEA 61.1.9 a.]

- (1) of the make and model approved by the Chief of Police,
  - (2) identified by make, model, serial number, purchase date and ownership on the form filed with the supervisor in charge of this function, and
  - (3) included in the department's blanket FCC license.
1. Recertification of operators is required within every five (5) years following the last issuance of a radar certificate. Operators must satisfactorily complete a radar refresher course to be recertified. [CALEA 61.1.9 e.]

2. All police traffic radar units utilized by this department will undergo field calibration checking in the following manner:
  - (a) At the beginning of each shift each radar unit will be tested with assigned tuning forks.
  - (b) At the beginning of each shift an internal function test will be performed.  
(Note: Should the radar set fail any of the above tests, the unit is to be taken out of service immediately.)  
After each speeding summons/arrests in which radar was utilized, each of the above tests (tuning forks, internal function test) will be repeated. (Note: Should the radar set fail any of the above tests, the unit is to be taken out of service immediately.) [CALEA 61.1.9 c.]
  - (c) At least once each year, each radar unit and each tuning fork will undergo electronic calibration checks utilizing equipment traceable to the National Bureau of Standards. [CALEA 61.1.9 d.]